

BROOKLYN CITIZENS FEAR "COME BACK" IN THE COURTS IN FIGHT FOR 80-CENT GAS

Want No More Delay Based
on Legal Technicalities to
Balk People's Will.

ASK LOWER RATE NOW.

Hearing on "Going Value" of
Kings County Gas Co. Be-
gins To-Morrow.

By Sophie Irene Loeb.

At the hearing to-morrow at 2.30 P. M. before Commissioner Hayward, when a uniform 80-cent gas rate will be urged for the residents of Brooklyn by the taxpayers, the particular points to be discussed will be the "going value" of the Kings County Gas Company.

The Public Service Commission has practically rested its case, and James Hicks, counsel for the company, will answer the estimated valuations of the company as found by the engineers and experts of the Public Service Commission.

As stated in The Evening World, the Public Service Commission ordered an 80-cent gas rate in 1911, but the Court of Appeals held that the "going value" of the concern had not been adequately determined.

A delegation of citizens representing civic bodies of Brooklyn will be present in the interest of the consumers and will urge that everything available as to the earlier life of the concern shall be presented, so there shall be no more "come back" from the courts once a lower rate is ordered.

It was shown in the former investigation of the Public Service Commission that the company had for years been paying dividends approximately 11 and 12 per cent, when in the opinion of the commission a good profit would have been forthcoming for this company at the very highest estimate of 7 1/2 per cent.

Following are the rates that have been charged by this company and which evidently have brought the business to its present standard:

From Oct. 1, 1901, to Aug. 1, 1904 (10 per cent. off for cash and 5 per cent. in 10 days) \$2.00

From Aug. 1, 1904, to May 1, 1905..... 2.15

From May 1, 1905, to Jan. 1, 1906..... 2.15

From Jan. 1, 1906, to Jan. 1, 1907..... 2.15

From Jan. 1, 1907, to the present..... 1.00

The citizens of Brooklyn claim that the company has made more than a "fair return," and will urge the commission to meet the requirements of the court.

The decision of the Court of Appeals on this case significantly sets forth the rights of the public. Some of these observations are as follows: "The public is entitled to be served at reasonable rates and the corporation is entitled to a fair return on the property used by it in the public service, no more, no less, always assuming, of course, that the return is computed on a proper valuation. That was not made so by statute, but was the rule at common law, which justifies Legislatures and commissions in fixing rates."

"If, then, a public service corporation has received more or less than a fair return, it has received more or less, as the case may be, than was its due, irrespective of whether a rate had been fixed by public authority. If a deficiency in the fair return in the early years was due to losses or expenditures which were reasonably necessary and proper in developing efficiency and economy of operation and in establishing a business it should be made up by the returns in later years."

"If there was a fair return from the start the corporation has received all it was entitled to, irrespective of how much of the earnings may have been diverted to the building up of the business."

"The public is entitled to the benefit of the improved conditions if thereby the company is enabled to supply gas at a less rate. The company is entitled to a fair return on its investment, not an improvement made at public expense."

"If 'going value' is capable of ascertainment it will not do for the commission vaguely to consider it in fixing the fair rate of return. That no appreciable allowance was made in this case is shown both by the rate fixed and by the following statement in the opinion of the commission:

"It should be noted that the plant has been in operation for nearly twenty years, and it might be argued with considerable force that two decades should be sufficient for the company to recoup its early deficiencies below a fair rate of return, if any such deficiencies ever existed."

"If the company has not recouped itself by this time, under such circumstances it is doubtful whether the present consumers

Two Picturesque Scenes in the Annual Carnival of Greenwich Village, Held in Hudson Park



THE PAGENT IN HUDSON PARK. BY NEWS SERVICE

sought to be burdened for this reason. "The investors in a new enterprise have to be satisfied as a rule with meagre or no returns while the business is being built up. In a business subject only to the natural laws of trade the expect to make up for the early lean years by large profits later. In a business classified among public utilities the rate-making power must allow for the losses during the lean years, or their rate will be confiscatory and of course will drive investors from the field."

"If it had received such return from the start, or if in later years it had received more than a fair return, the public would already have borne the expense of establishing the business in whole or in part, and to that extent the question of 'going value' for the purpose of fixing a present rate would be eliminated; for it must constantly be kept in mind in dealing with this problem that the company is entitled to a fair return and no more. If it has already had it, that is the end of the matter."

WILSON WREATHS FOR DEAD.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—President Wilson sent wreaths of flowers today to the tombs of Washington, Great Harrison, McKinley and several other former Presidents, and also to the grave of Gen. Joseph Wheeler, the Confederate and Spanish War leader.

The grave at Arlington Cemetery containing many unknown Civil War dead was singled out by the President for an especially large wreath.

Girl Aphasia Victim "Pinda" Seif.

A well dressed young girl was found wandering at One Hundred and Seventy-third Street and Third Avenue last night and was taken to Fordham Hospital, where it was found she was suffering from aphasia. At first she could only remember she had attended church yesterday morning and had later been in a trolley car. Persistent questioning and suggestions by Dr. Elie brought her memory slowly back, and she said today she was Mary Kelly, of No. 347 Nineteenth Street, Brooklyn.

ROSY CHEEKED BOY HELD AS BANDIT IN SIX BOLD HOLD-UPS

William Walsh Says Grocers Were "Easy" When He Pointed Gun at Them.

A good looking, slender boy with rosy cheeks and clear, steady eyes was arraigned in Yorkville Police Court today on a charge of robbery. He is accused of holding up at the point of a revolver six grocers in their stores during the first week in May.

The lad is William Walsh of No. 381 Greenwich Street. He says he is eighteen years old, but looks younger. Up to a month ago, he says, he went to school.

"I got tired of school," he told Magistrate Breen, "and went out to look for work. They offered me several jobs, but there was too much work in them for the pay they offered."

"I had been thinking for a long time of how easy it is to rob the little grocery store keepers. They don't keep guns in their stores and they haven't got any nerve. I went over to Jersey and bought a revolver and started in. It was easy but I had to skip after I had cleaned up half a dozen because I was tipped off that the cops were looking for me."

The specific complaint against Walsh was the robbery of William Knaudt, who keeps a grocery at No. 203 East Twenty-seventh Street. Walsh walked into the store on the afternoon of May 6, backed Knaudt and two clerks against the wall, took \$25 from the cash register and got away.

This was his last robbery. Previously he had robbed a grocer on the West Side who knew him and the detective were on his trail. He was captured last night at Tuxedo, N. Y. Magistrate Breen held him in \$2,500 bail.

Artist Depicts Many Buildings Wrecked in War

For many years George Wharton Edwards has made Flinders a special field of his art, depicting the incomparable historic monuments there. The destruction of certain of the subjects treated by Mr. Edwards, as acts of war, makes the exhibition of his drawings, which will continue at the Hasty Gallery, No. 205 Fifth Avenue, until June 12, especially interesting. The gates of the town of Flinders, the town hall of Almet, Louvain, Audenarde, Dinand, the walls of old Ypres and other towns have all been subjects of Mr. Edwards' brush and pencil.

The catalogue contains twenty-four numbers, of which thirteen of the originals have been destroyed.

"The Story of Bruges" was one such. The tower of the destroyed building appears in the drawing as it did before the war. It seems a trifle top-heavy, with its overhanging turret, but there is no question as to

its picturesqueness, which Mr. Edwards has most charmingly emphasized. The sloping roofs, that suggest lean-to, the arches and windows make a strong appeal to lovers of architectural effects. One of the small windows is delicately touched with green.

"The Town Hall at Audenarde" is also no longer in existence. An antique shop at Malines has met the same fate. Before it passed it was a picturesque place. There are a couple of incidental chairs and a cabinet. One or two color notes of red and green are again used with great success by Mr. Edwards.

"A Quiet Canal at Bruges" lacks the tragedy that the others carry. The lumbering boat by the quay, the fishermen trying their luck with infinite patience and the arched bridge in the middle distance are all very appealing. At the right of the drawing a tower rises, and around the top of it birds are hovering. A narrow roadway, flanked by the roofed houses, all in low tones, with here and there touches of green, makes the drawing highly effective.

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19c Silk Crepe de Chine Handkerchiefs 12 1/2c
\$1.25 Confirmation Veils 75c
\$1.75 Confirmation Veils \$1.19
\$5.50 Bridal Veils \$5.50
75c Chip Braid Hats 59c
\$1.19 Hemp Braid 69c
95c Corduroy Sport Hats 75c
25c Assorted Neckwear 10c
\$1.25 White Ratine Skirts \$1.89
\$3 Plaid Skirts \$1.89
10c and 15c Washable Edgings 7c
14c bolt Taffeta Seam Binding 7c
15c Zephyr Gingham 9c
25c Chiffon Voiles 10c
59c Silk Warp Crepe de Chine 29c
98c Hand Bags 69c
\$17.50 to \$25 Men's Stylish Suits, at \$12.75 & \$14.75
Women's and Misses' \$10 \$5 Sport Hats at \$5
Men's Sample Straw Hats \$1
\$5 to \$7.50 Genuine Panama Straw Hats \$3.45
\$1 to \$1.50 Silk and Pongee Outing Hats for Men 50c
\$7.95 Women's & Misses' Poplin Dresses, at \$5.95
\$4.50 Blue Serge Suits \$3.45
50c and 75c Trouser 39c
Boys' Washable "Oliver Twist" Pants 39c
Girls' \$1.00 Tub Dresses, at 79c
\$1.35 Madras Curtains, at 89c
35c Imported Madras, yard 22c
35c Rag Rugs, at 25c
15c to 24c Sheet Music, "Hills," copy 9c
25c Lining Satens, yard 15c
59c Floral Pattern Satens, yd 19c
59c Black and White Shepherd Checks, yd 35c
75c Mohair Strillians, yd 39c
69c White Habutai Silk, yd 44c
\$1.35 Black Satin de Chine, yd 89c
\$1.25 Crepe de Chine, yd 95c
Women's \$5 Plated-Top Petticoats \$2.84
Men's \$2 to \$5 Trousers, at \$1.65 and \$2.65
Men's 50c to 75c Summer Underwear, at 39c
Men's \$1.50 to \$2.50 Negligee Shirts, at 98c
60c Bungalow Rush Mats—size 24x39 36c
\$5.25 Rag Rugs—size 6x9 \$3.55
\$6.50 China Straw Matting—40 yard rolls \$4.75
\$3.95 Cut Glass Sugar and Cream Sets \$2.99
\$4.95 Cut Glass Jelly Dishes—10 inches \$3.45
\$10 Cut Glass Water Sets \$5.45
\$2.50 Soft Top Mattresses \$2.15
\$25 Golden Oak Buffets \$16
\$60 Genuine Spanish Leather Library Suits \$42.50
\$12.75 Apartment House Refrigerators \$9.75
\$12.75 Lift Cover Refrigerators \$9.95
\$24.75 Side Ice Refrigerators \$17.75
25c to 35c Window Screens, at 22c to 25c
29c Artotypes—size 11x14; framed complete 31c
49c Dining Room Pictures 37c
Women's & Misses' \$14.75 to \$16.50 Tailored Suits, at \$7.95
\$6.50 Diamond-Set Cuff Links, at \$4.95
\$67.50 Diamond Solitaire Rings \$49
\$3.95 Silver-Plated Ware \$2.75
99c Jointed Dolls 39c
\$4.75 Character Dolls \$2.85
25c Pack Playing Cards 9c
19c lb. Writing Paper, lb. 10c
Envelopes to Match—pkg. 25c
35c Initial Writing Paper 23c
Women's \$5 to \$6.50 Dresses \$2.95
Girls' \$4.50 Spring Coats \$2.95
\$5 "Golfcord" Sport Coats for Women \$3.95
\$1 White Voile Blouses 59c
\$1.45 and \$2.25 Blouses \$1.45
Women's \$1.50 Porch Dresses 95c
Women's 50c Chamade de Glycerin 25c
Women's 50c Milanese Silk Gloves 39c
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